

EMILIA FOSBERGII (ASTERACEAE: SENECTIONAE)
IN TEXAS REVISITED

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In a remarkable example of botanical coincidence, the first author has made the second collection of the same species of non-native weed first reported for Texas by the second author (Williams 1994). The first collection was made 10 years to the day previously.

Emilia fosbergii Nicolson is a pantropical weed of "low elevation, dry, urban and disturbed habitats (Wagner et al. 1999)." Smith (1991) reported that the species is "probably indigenous in central or eastern Africa but widely established in the New World ... centering in the U.S. (Florida), West Indies, and subsequently from Mexico to northern South America." The species, was first reported in Texas growing in a disturbed site in Travis County. The second known collection of this plant is from Walker Co., collected about 9 miles north of Huntsville and 165 miles east of Travis County. Despite having been reported in Texas 10 years ago, *Emilia* has not been reported from other counties in Texas (Turner et al. 2003).

Williams (1994) speculated that the weed was brought into Texas as a hitchhiker on nursery plants supplied from Florida. Due to the proximity of a house in the second collection, it was again assumed the plant made its way to Texas through nursery stock.

Following the hunch, the second author visited all of the nurseries in Huntsville to look for evidence of *Emilia*. Indeed, the first nursery visited had an abundance of *Emilia fosbergii* growing as a weed in several pots of *Cycas revoluta* Thunb. and *Morea* sp., both supplied from Florida. Cycads were found growing approximately 60 feet from the collection made along Hwy 19 in Walker County. It is still not known if *Emilia* will become an established weed in Texas, but the disjunct distribution of the species and the increase in urban development suggests that it has ample opportunity to spread.

Voucher specimens. **TEXAS. Travis Co.:** City of Austin, A-1 Grass Nursery, two blocks S of Barton Skyway along S Lamar St., growing in gravel parking lot and planting area. 20 Nov 1993, Williams s.n. (TEX). **WALKER Co.:** 8.3 mi N of Hwy 30 along Hwy 19, on the N side of Hwy 19, growing in ditch along highway easement in front of residential area (30° 48' 33.01944' N, 95° 26' 39.76872' W), 20 Nov 2003, Spencer 1 (SHST); Huntsville, Home Depot nursery, growing as a weed within pots of *Cycas revoluta* and *Morea* sp., 6 Dec 2003, Williams s.n. (SHST).



Fig. 1. Heads of *Emilia fosbergii*. Photo by J. K. Williams.

Emilia is a member of the tribe Senecionae as evidenced by the presence of disk flowers, alternate leaves without punctate glands, and non-overlapping phyllaries that are arranged in a single series (Fig. 1). *Emilia fosbergii* is the only species of Texas Senecionae with red corollas.

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